



BRIDGNORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1972

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY 1972

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Westgate,
Bridgnorth.

August 1973.

To: The Chairman and Councillors

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances in the District for the year 1972.


Following the usual pattern it contains all the information required by the Department of Health and Social Security. As in previous years the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. D. A. Pamphilon, has been entirely responsible for the sections on Environmental Hygiene, Housing and Food Supervision.

My grateful thanks are due to all who have assisted in the preparation of this Report and in particular to Mr. D. A. Pamphilon and Mrs. C. M. Smith.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

MARGARET H. F. TURNBULL
Medical Officer of Health



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STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District in acres	125,668
Estimated Population (Mid-1972)	32,310
Number of Inhabited Houses (at 31.12.72.)	11,751
Rateable Value of the District (at 1.4.73.)	£3,320,212
Estimated Product of 1p Rate (at 1.4.73.)	£31,585

VITAL STATISTICS

1. BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

There were 564 live births in the year 1972 of which 31 were illegitimate (5.5%).

The Birth Rate for the year (standardised for comparison with the corresponding Rate for other areas) was 16.5 per 1,000 of the population. This is rather higher than the average Birth Rate for England and Wales of 14.8.

A more detailed analysis of the birth figures is given below:-

LIVE BIRTHS 1972

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total Live Births
Male	267	18	285
Female	266	13	279
Total	533	31	564
Rate per 1,000 of population	16.5	0.9	17.5

Crude Birth-Rate, per 1,000 of population	-	17.5
Standardised Birth Rate, per 1,000 of population	-	16.5
Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1972	-	14.8

(b) Stillbirths

There were 5 stillbirths in the District in 1972, giving a Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (i.e. live births and Stillbirths combined) of 9.0. This is appreciably lower than the corresponding England and Wales figure for 1972 of 12.0.

2. DEATHS

There were 372 deaths in the area during 1972, the various causes of which are detailed in the Annual Return of the Registrar General which follows.

Conditions affecting the Heart and Circulatory System accounted for 200 deaths (i.e. 53.7% of the total number).

Malignant disease in its various forms was responsible for 62 deaths, 33 male and 29 female. This represents 16.7% of the total number.

The standardised Death Rate per 1,000 of the population was 12.2 which is virtually the same as the England and Wales figure of 12.1.

NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE

	Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	6	2	8
4 weeks and under 1 year	1	-	1
1-4 years	1	-	1
5-14 years	1	-	1
15-24 years	5	1	6
25-34 years	3	1	4
35-44 years	7	3	10
45-54 years	9	4	13
55-64 years	35	18	53
65-74 years	66	33	99
75 and over	86	90	176
All ages	220	152	372

3. INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were 9 infant deaths in 1972, 7 of which occurred in the first week of life. One was an illegitimate child.

The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 16.0 which is just below the corresponding rate for England and Wales of 17.0.

There were no deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH 1972

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	-	1	1
Oesophagus	2	1	3
Stomach	7	2	9
Intestine	5	4	9
Lung, Bronchus	10	4	14
Breast	-	5	5
Uterus	-	4	4
Prostate	1	-	1
Leukaemia	2	1	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	7	13
Benign & unspecified neoplasms	-	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	2	3
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	-	1
Mental disorders	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart disease	3	1	4
Hypertensive disease	5	2	7
Ischaemic heart disease	56	22	78
Other forms of heart disease	17	17	34
Cerebrovascular disease	31	39	70
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	2	7
Influenza	3	4	7
Pneumonia	15	11	26
Bronchitis and Emphysema	18	5	23
Asthma	2	-	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	3	6
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Appendicitis	1	-	1
Intestinal obstruction & hernia	2	-	2
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other diseases of genito-urinary system	-	2	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	1	1
Congenital anomalies	1	1	2
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	2	1	3
Other causes of perinatal mortality	3	-	3
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	7	1	8
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	1	2
All other external causes	1	-	1
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All Causes	220	152	372
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GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES

All hospitals in the area are administered by Birmingham Regional Hospital Board through its various Hospital Management Committees.

The general hospitals most easily accessible to inhabitants of the Rural District are those at Bridgnorth, Kidderminster, Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton. All provide out-patient and in-patient facilities and maternity services.

Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the isolation hospitals at Wolverhampton or Shrewsbury and patients with Tuberculosis receive initial treatment at Copthorne Hospital or Cross Houses Hospital.

The chronic sick requiring hospital treatment are generally admitted to one of the following Institutions: New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton; East Hamlet Hospital, Ludlow; Shifnal Hospital; The Beeches Hospital, Ironbridge.

2. GENERAL MEDICAL, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

These services are administered by the Salop Executive Council, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.

3. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

Salop County Council, as Local Health Authority, is responsible for the provision and administration of the following services:-

Health Centres (none as yet in this area)
Care of mothers and young children
Domiciliary Midwifery
Health visiting
Home nursing
Vaccination and Immunisation
Ambulance Services
Prevention of illness, care and after-care
Domestic Help services

(a) Child Health

Clinic Sessions

Child Health Centre, Northgate, Bridgnorth.	Mondays	9.30 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
	Thursdays	1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Youth Club, Highley	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Child Health Centre, Broseley	1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays	2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
British Legion Hall, Much Wenlock	2nd & 4th Tuesdays	1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Community Centre, Alveley	1st Wednesdays	2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Mobile Clinic Sessions

Well Meadow Estate, Bridgnorth	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	9.45 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.
Acton Arms Car Park, Morville	2nd Tuesday	9.45 a.m. - 10.45 a.m.
Monkhopton School	2nd Tuesday	11.15 a.m. - 12 noon
Hallon Car Park, Worfield	2nd Tuesday	2.00 p.m. - 2.45 p.m.
Hundred House Car Park, Norton	2nd Tuesday	3.30 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Fox & Hounds Car Park, Stottesdon	4th Tuesday	9.45 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.
Village Hall Car Park, Ditton Priors	4th Tuesday	11.15 a.m. - 12 noon
Plough Hotel Car Park, Claverley	4th Tuesday	2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

All parents are now offered Clinic appointments for developmental paediatric examinations when their children are 12 weeks old and again at the age of 2 years. Any defects found are followed up and referrals made for treatment where necessary. Most mothers are very pleased to take advantage of this service.

A test of hearing is also carried out on all children at about the age of nine months.

(b) Health Visiting, Home Nursing, Domiciliary Midwifery

The District is well served by full-time and part-time staff of the County Health Department.

(c) Vaccination and Immunisation

Under the County Council's scheme, children up to school-leaving age may receive protection against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Measles (with appropriate booster doses as required) by arrangement with a general practitioner or at any Child Health Centre or Mobile Clinic by appointment. Protection against German Measles is also available for girls approaching adolescence.

As from July 1971 routine vaccination against Smallpox was discontinued. It was considered that the likelihood of contracting Smallpox nowadays in this Country was so slight as not to justify the continuation of vaccination as a routine procedure in infancy and childhood.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis is offered each year to all children aged 11-13 years who are found by preliminary testing to require this protection. Only very few parents refuse their consent for this procedure which is carried out at the schools.

(d) Ambulance Service

The Central Ambulance Department for the County is in Shrewsbury (Telephone No. Shrewsbury 6331) to which all requests for an ambulance should be made.

(e) Domestic Help Service

The service of a domestic help is available, in the words of the Act, for "any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age". Enquiries regarding this service are dealt with at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury during normal Office hours. Telephone No. Shrewsbury 52211 Ext. 397.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Mr. D. A. Pamphilon the Council's Senior Public Health Inspector reports as follows:-

A Council is responsible for administering an increasing number of statutory obligations dealing with various aspects of environmental health which are contained in many Acts of Parliament. These obligations include the following - conditions of housing; the examination and safety of food; the control of pollution in all its forms; the welfare and safety of persons in their work.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the public are becoming more aware of the need for a controlled environment which is free from pollution and it would appear are becoming more anxious to protect it.

An endeavour has therefore been made in this Report to make brief reference to the Council's many activities in this field in order that an assessment may be made of progress being made and its achievements.

At the same time comment is expressed on various subjects where it is considered further effort should be directed in the future.

WATER SUPPLIES

The responsibility for providing mains water supplies to the Rural District is that of the East Shropshire Water Board and the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking. However, the Public Health Act 1936 and other legislation make it a duty of every local authority to ensure the sufficiency and wholesomeness of the water supplies in their district.

EAST SHROPSHIRE WATER BOARD - AREA OF SUPPLY

Joint High Level Water Supply Scheme

The area supplied by this Scheme comprises the upland Parishes to the West of the District. Water is taken from the Elan Aqueduct and pumped to a storage reservoir at Coreley from which it is fed by gravity to the distribution system after chlorination. The Ditton Priors and Monkhopton areas are supplied with water from the Board's service at Stoke St. Milborough.

It is disappointing that this Scheme is still not completed. It is estimated that pipelines still to be laid should be capable of serving 24% of the properties in the total scheme. Quite clearly the Council must insist on the early completion of the remainder of the scheme at the earliest opportunity.

One of the areas still to be served is the Hillside area of Ditton Priors. This is considered to be one of the areas of the District now most in need of a mains water supply as properties in this area rely on springs and shallow wells, many of which are known to be unsatisfactory in both quality and quantity.

The delay in providing this area with piped supplies is hindering the improvement of many properties in the area.

Low Level Water Supply Scheme

The above Scheme was completed by the Rural District in 1962 and now serves some 20 Parishes within the District.

Water for the Scheme is taken from the Elan Aqueduct at four points where it is chlorinated and distributed by gravity, fluorides being added to the water at source by Birmingham Corporation. The Scheme is also supplemented in certain areas by water from the source at Stoke St. Milborough.

Much Wenlock

Water is supplied from a borehole situated off the Broseley Road where it is chlorinated and pumped to a reservoir at the rear of the Lady Forester Memorial Hospital. The supply is distributed by a balanced system. No fluoridation of this supply is carried out.

Broseley

Water is supplied from a borehole at Beekbury where it is chlorinated and pumped to a reservoir at Posenhall and distributed by gravity. No fluoridation of this supply is carried out.

WOLVERHAMPTON WATER UNDERTAKING - AREA OF SUPPLY

Bridgnorth Borough

Water is supplied from a borehole at Roughton which was commissioned on the 30th June 1971. Here it is chlorinated and pumped to reservoirs at The Hermitage and Ludlow Road and then distributed by gravity to the Town. No fluoridation of this supply is carried out.

Claverley, Worfield and Rudge

These Parishes are within the Statutory Area of the Wolverhampton Water Undertaking and the main centres of population are well served. The water comes from boreholes at Hilton where it is chlorinated and distributed throughout the Parishes.

Reports from the Wolverhampton Water Engineer show that water supplied to the District is adequately chlorinated and satisfactory in quality. No fluoridation of the supply is carried out.

PURITY OF SUPPLIES

(a) Mains Supplies

Routine sampling of all public mains supplies is carried out by the Health Department to ensure that chlorination has been effective and that no pollution has occurred in the course of distribution. During the past year as a matter of policy fewer samples have been taken as it is considered that the Authorities supplying the water to the District are taking adequate samples.

Samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Shrewsbury for bacteriological examination. A summary of the reports received during 1972 is as follows:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Elan Aqueduct (not chlorinated)	1	Nil
East Shropshire Water Board	31	1
Wolverhampton Water Undertaking	4	Nil

Where samples on analysis are found to be unsatisfactory, they are immediately brought to the attention of the appropriate Water Authority. Further check samples are taken to ensure the supply is satisfactory.

(b) Private Supplies

Such supplies from wells, springs, etc. must always be looked upon with suspicion. This again is shown by the results of samples taken from these supplies during the year. Of 15 samples taken, 11 proved to be unsatisfactory on bacteriological analysis.

In areas of sparse population it is most unlikely that mains water supplies will be available to every household. This makes it imperative that those private supplies which do exist must be protected from possible pollution. Unfortunately many such supplies are of a shallow nature and are subject to chemical pollution from the use of fertilisers as well as bacteriological pollution from inefficient disposal of sewage and effluents. Where users of such supplies are worried or have reason to believe pollution is taking place, contact with the Health Department will ensure that the supply is sampled and appropriate action taken where necessary.

PREMISES RECEIVING WATER FROM PUBLIC PIPED SUPPLIES
AT 31ST DECEMBER 1972

	<u>No. of Houses</u> <u>31.12.72.</u>	<u>Connected to Public</u> <u>Mains 31.12.72.</u>
Acton Round	42	7
Alveley	682	600
Astley Abbotts	159	114
Aston Botterell	27	5
Aston Eyre	24	1
Billingsley	40	37
Burwarton	45	4
Chelmarsh	155	132
Chetton	118	65
Claverley	540	448
Cleobury North	38	9
Deuxhill	8	7
Ditton Priors	193	35
Eardington	144	125
Easthope	28	-
Farlow	68	17
Glazeley	9	5
Highley	1,015	1,004
Kinlet	191	167
Middleton Scriven	27	13
Monkhopton	59	21
Morville	121	65
Neen Savage	107	94
Neenton	32	17
Quatt Malvern	91	47
Romsley	38	20
Rudge	36	5
Shipton	43	-
Sidbury	14	2
Stanton Long	57	4
Stottesdon	274	177
Tasley	76	75
Upton Cressett	13	-
Worfield	711	598
Bridgnorth	3,320	3,308
Broseley	872	865
Barrow	224	110
Much Wenlock	715	591
Stockton	122	122
Sutton Maddock	93	93

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are twelve public sewerage schemes within the Council's area, at Ackleton, Alveley, Bridgnorth, Broseley (2), Claverley, Eardington, Highley, Homer, Much Wenlock, Stottesdon and Worfield.

Ackleton

The scheme for this Village was completed during the year, enabling many people to connect their property to the sewer and abandon cesspools.

Alveley

A sewer to serve properties in the Woodlands Estate area was completed in 1972. A most serious public health nuisance existed here from the effluent of septic tanks.

The sewage disposal works are working at design capacity and difficulty is still experienced in maintaining a satisfactory effluent. The need to provide an extension to the works in the near future is one of the more important projects in the Council's future capital programme.

Bridgnorth

As reported in previous years, serious overloading at the Stanley Lane Sewage Disposal Works exists and a satisfactory effluent is only achieved by re-circulation and irrigation of part of the effluent over grass land.

Work commenced during the year on a new sewage disposal works at The Slads which on completion will relieve the overloading at the Stanley Lane Works and enable Quatford and Danesford to be served.

Broseley

A sewerage scheme was commenced during the year which will enable the two existing public sewage disposal plants and various smaller plants to be abandoned. Sewage from this scheme will be treated at the Gitchfield Sewage Disposal Works of the Telford Development Corporation.

Claverley

The works for this Village continue to produce a satisfactory effluent.

Eardington

The disposal works are still overloaded although some relief has been obtained as the drainage from the private slaughterhouse no longer enters the works. The Council's Consulting Engineers have prepared drawings for the drainage of the Village. This will be taken to the proposed Slads Sewage Disposal Works, when the existing works in the Village will be abandoned.

Highley

Flows at this works are in excess of design capacity but an improvement in the effluent has been achieved by re-circulating the effluent at the rate of approximately 1 d.w.f. This can only be temporary and extensions to meet the ultimate demands for the Village will still have to be taken.

Homer

A satisfactory effluent is being produced from these works and an appreciable proportion of properties in the area are now connected.

Morville

A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the Village was commenced during the year. The completion of this will enable two small disposal plants serving Council houses to be abandoned and will also relieve various public health nuisances which have existed for many years.

Much Wenlock

A satisfactory effluent is now being produced from these works now that extensions have been completed and the provision of new sewers has eliminated the public health nuisances which existed after heavy storms.

Stottesdon

It must again be reported that the response from owners of property with regard to connections to the Public Sewer has been disappointing and as a result only 50% of the works is at present in commission.

Worfield

Although these works are at design capacity, a satisfactory effluent is produced.

FUTURE SCHEMES

Hilton

No further progress can be reported with regard to this Scheme where it is intended a joint scheme with Worfield and Wyken will be provided.

Chorley

No more definite forecast can be made for the commencement of this Village Scheme, but the scheme is considered to be essential if houses in the Village are to be improved and provided with modern amenities.

Ditton Priors

With the increased use of mains water supplies in this Village, public health nuisances are becoming increasingly evident in ditches and brook courses. It is hoped that a scheme for this Village to relieve these problems will be possible in the future.

Future Schemes and Policy

The Council is aware that although they are already committed to a heavy capital programme there will be need for many years to come to provide sewage disposal facilities in many villages and hamlets throughout the District.

The Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare outline Schemes in the following areas:-

Astley Abbotts
Aston Botterell
Brockton
Burwarton
Button Oak
Oreton
Tasley

Other areas of the District must now be considered, such as Chelmarsh, Button Bridge and the Heathton/Draycott areas, where public health nuisances exist owing to the difficulties in disposing of effluent from septic tanks.

A considerable number of properties exist in the Norton/Sutton Maddock areas and a scheme will no doubt be necessary in this area in the future. The present system of sewage treatment is rather primitive in many cases.

It is recognised by the Council that the provision of Schemes in these areas will undoubtedly be costly when compared with previous Schemes, but it is considered that these more rural areas of the District should have equal opportunity of sewage disposal facilities especially where the disposal of effluent results in the pollution of ditches and watercourses.

Council House Sewage Disposal Plants

There are 22 private sewage disposal plants serving various Council house sites. These receive regular maintenance together with the smaller public sewage disposal plants by mobile teams of attendants.

Private Sewage Disposal

The Council operate a septic tank/cesspool emptying service of which increasing use was made during the year, enabling users of such drainage systems to carry out their maintenance more efficiently and economically. The service is now being used above its maximum, and many applicants for the use of the service are not receiving the prompt attention their needs warrant. The Council will have to make provision for its extension in the near future.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The refuse collection service is by the Council's direct labour, all Parishes receiving a weekly collection.

The paper sack system of refuse collection is now used by all properties throughout the District resulting in a hygienic back door collection to householders and a clean and more acceptable task to the man performing the service.

Refuse is still disposed of by tipping on land, some five sites being used for this purpose.

Every endeavour is made to ensure that refuse on these sites is covered immediately and mechanical methods are used, but the scattered nature of the tips presents a constant problem.

If this method of refuse disposal is to be continued in the future, it is clear that controlled tipping in a hygienic manner is the only acceptable method and this will only be achieved if a central tip is used where mechanical means of covering the refuse can be employed regularly.

No doubt the responsible authority of the future will wish to look carefully at alternative methods of disposal whereby greater benefit may be achieved from the waste products involved.

The Council have provided neighbourhood "civic amenity tips" in various parts of the District and these have been made full use of by the public. It is hoped to be able to provide further such sites in the near future.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

A local authority is responsible by the provisions of Part 1 of the Factory Act 1961 for ensuring the adequacy and suitability of sanitary accommodation in factories where mechanical power is used. In the case of factories where mechanical power is not used the general working conditions are also supervised.

At the end of 1972 there were 197 factories on the Register, all using mechanical power.

In addition to visits made by the Council's Public Health Inspectors, factories are also visited by Her Majesty's Factory Inspectorate who refer any relevant contraventions of the Act to this Authority. It is now clear that such dual inspections are an unnecessary use of manpower and the Factories Act should become the sole responsibility of Her Majesty's Factory Inspectorate.

All plans of new factories or conversions are scrutinised by the Health Department to ensure that they comply with the relevant legislation.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act makes provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed in offices or shops premises and certain railway premises.

There are now 294 registered premises employing 1281 persons in the Council's area, 14 premises being registered during the year. Some 118 visits were made to these premises for the administration of the Act and its relevant regulations during the year.

All registered premises have now received an initial inspection when the various provisions and requirements of the legislation were brought to the occupier's attention. In addition to such premises receiving further visits to ensure that any contraventions which have been brought to the occupier's attention have been dealt with, it will be necessary to make re-inspections of premises as time progresses.

One of the principal objects of the Act is to ensure that employees work in conditions as free as possible from occupational hazards.

Generally speaking, good co-operation has been received from occupiers of registered premises when contraventions of this legislation have been brought to their attention.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT 1956

Sections 3 and 5 of the above Act place a duty on local authorities in connection with the provision of sanitary conveniences on farms where agricultural workers are employed.

Specific visits are not made to agricultural holdings for this purpose but when such premises are visited, the subject is borne in mind.

No requests for the enforcement of this legislation have been received during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

The above Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of any establishment at which a business of providing accommodation for cats and dogs is carried on. Seven establishments are licensed by the Council.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Two premises are licensed by the Council.

AIR POLLUTION - CLEAN AIR ACT 1956/68

Visits are always made to factories whenever excessive emissions of dark smoke are noted and the management's attention is drawn to their responsibilities under the above Act. Generally speaking very good co-operation is received from management in this respect and any occasional emission has been found to be caused by breakdown in boiler plants. On no occasion has it been found necessary to resort to legal proceedings to secure compliance with the relevant requirements of this legislation.

However, it has been necessary to give increased attention to the burning of refuse and waste products by various industrial concerns including garage premises, where on occasions quite serious pollution has been caused.

The Council are required by the above legislation to ensure that new furnaces are capable of being operated smokelessly, and are also required to approve the height of new chimneys. Two approvals in respect of new plant and one approval in respect of a chimney were granted in the year.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

An increase in the number of complaints received during the year with regard to noise would appear to indicate the public's awareness of the considerable effect that noise of all types has on living standards. This problem is particularly evident in the case of road traffic noise in the town of Bridgnorth where heavy vehicles have to negotiate considerable hills.

THE ALKALI ETC. WORKS ORDER 1958

All factories carrying on processes which are registrable under the above legislation are supervised by the Alkali Inspectorate of the Department of the Environment and good co-operation between those Officers and this Council's Officers is achieved.

Various types of mineral workings are registrable under the Order, three such premises being registered in this area. There are limestone quarries in the Much Wenlock area where serious nuisances from dust have been experienced in the past.

During the year a serious nuisance has been experienced from a quarry in the area which was particularly troublesome because of its proximity to a school and houses.

Assurances have been received from the Inspectorate that methods to control this dust nuisance are in hand.

PEST CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 requires a local authority to inspect all premises in their District and to ensure that any infestations of rats and mice are dealt with by the Authority (or by the occupier in the case of trade and agricultural premises). A total of 1,182 requests for the use of the service were received during the year.

All Council owned properties (including tips and sewage disposal works) are regularly inspected and treated when infestations are found.

The problem of rats resistant to anti-coagulant poisons has again presented the Department with difficulties, with the regular use of toxic poisons being necessary in an increasingly large area of the District West of the River Severn. No such resistant infestations have as yet been found East of the River.

A further pest which has again been particularly troublesome in the more urban areas of the District has been the feral pigeon. Although considerable time has been given in an endeavour to control it, not very satisfactory results can be reported. Pigeons cause considerable damage to property, are dirty and are capable of carrying diseases which are communicable to man. Further efforts will continue to be made to control this pest.

CARAVAN SITES & CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

There are 1,220 caravans stationed on 19 licensed multiple sites within the District. 31 of these on two sites are residential caravans, the remainder being used for holiday purposes. A further 28 caravans on individual sites are licensed.

Generally speaking it can be reported that all sites comply with their Site Licence Conditions and good co-operation is achieved with site owners.

The site for touring caravans provided by The Caravan Club at Presthope near Much Wenlock is proving to be very popular. The site, which was formerly a derelict railway station and goods yard, is leased to the Club by the Council. It provides accommodation for 80 caravans and it is intended that provision will also be made in the future for tents.

A valuable leisure amenity has been achieved in the provision of this site and otherwise derelict land has been reclaimed.

GYPSIES AND OTHER TRAVELLERS

The Caravan Sites Act 1968 requires the County Councils to provide sites for caravan dwellers. It is hoped that the Salop County Council will be providing various sites in the County but as yet no site has been provided.

No particular problems have arisen in this area where only the more regular gypsies are those who carry out casual farm work.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts	242
Housing Acts	856
Rent Act	3
Applications	638
Council Houses	282
Problem Families	65
Revisits to property under notice	15
Interviews with owners etc.	4
Drainage	250
Refuse Tips	25
Sewage Works	5
Water Supply - General	40
Samples	63
Rodent Control - Domestic	19
Trade	12
Farms	43
Factories Act	19
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	
Offices	6
Retail Shops	47
Wholesale Shops	-
Catering Establishments	7
Other than G.I. - Accidents	2
Revisits	57
Meat Inspection - Slaughterhouse	1,155
Food & Drugs - Catering	77
Retail Shops	171
Licensed Premises	87
Butchers	53
Bakehouses	13
Fried Fish Shops	13
Ice-Cream	33
Ice-Cream Samples	89
Poultry Dressing	110
Market Stalls	30
Food and Drugs	135
Schools	8
Swimming Baths	31
Infectious Diseases - Enquiries	284
Houses Disinfected	2
Verminous Premises	17
Keeping of Animals	5
Offensive Accumulations	29
Miscellaneous	144
Caravans	49
Caravan Sites	32
Animal Boarding Establishments	12
Clean Air Act	47
Noise Abatement	54
Public Conveniences	22
Pet Shops	4
Deposit of Poisonous Wastes	3
River Notices	1
	<hr/>
	5,410
	<hr/>

There were 241 complaints and requests for help and advice received by the Department during the year.

The preceding list shows the number of visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors throughout the year and also indicates the wide range of environmental health duties undertaken.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are now two open-air swimming pools in the area which are open to the public - at Swancote and Highley. The water for the pool at Swancote is supplied from a borehole and is treated by chlorination, filtration and aeration.

The pool at Highley is supplied with water from the mains and treated by chlorination and filtration.

In addition there are now seven schools in the area which are provided with a swimming pool and where sampling of the water is undertaken by the Health Department. The technique required to maintain a water of a satisfactory bacteriological quality in these swimming pools is one of some complexity and requires considerable care and experience by the persons responsible for their maintenance. The advice given to the persons carrying out this maintenance by the Public Health Inspectors during visits is a contribution to this end.

It must of course be appreciated that a swimming pool which is not maintained to a high standard of cleanliness is a potential health hazard to persons using the pool.

Results of samples taken are shown below:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Highley	2	-
Swancote	4	1
*Apley Park School	-	-
Worfield C. of E. School	2	2
Bridgnorth Secondary - Boys	2	-
Much Wenlock Secondary	3	-
Cotsbrook Hall School	-	-
City of Coventry School	-	-
St. Mary's C. of E. School	2	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>

* This Pool was out of commission for a long period during the year.

HOUSING

(Figures at 31st December 1972)

Number of inhabited houses	11,751
Number of Council owned houses	2,470
Number of houses completed: a) Council	66
b) Private	163
Number of applications for Council houses	649
Number of houses under construction: a) Council	5
b) Private	155

POST WAR COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Completed in year ending 31.12.72.</u>	<u>Under Construction 31.12.72.</u>	<u>Total Completed Post-War</u>
Alveley	32	-	116
Barrow	-	-	12
Bridgnorth	-	-	618
Broseley	-	-	437
Chelmarsh	-	-	12
Ghetton	-	-	6
Claverley	-	-	44
Ditton Priors	-	-	20
Eardington	-	-	16
Eudon George	-	-	6
Highley	-	-	168
Kinler	-	-	14
Monkhoppar	-	-	14
Morville	-	-	18
Neen Savage	-	-	10
Neenton	-	-	8
Shipton	-	-	6
Stockton	-	-	6
Stottesdon	-	-	15
Sutton Maddock	-	-	14
Tasley	-	-	6
Much Wenlock	34	5	172
Worfield	-	-	88
	<u>66</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1,826</u>

PRE WAR COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING

Bridgnorth	114
Broseley	95
Highley	56
Much Wenlock	82
Sutton Maddock	7

Total pre-war 354

Other Council owned houses, including houses converted to flats, other houses and slum clearance properties. 278

Flats leased with shops 12

2,470

FUTURE COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING PROGRAMME

It is anticipated that works towards providing the following units of accommodation will be commenced in 1973:-

Broseley	-	4 bungalows	-	Cape Fold
Highley	-	12 bungalows	-	New Inn Site

COUNCIL HOUSING AND APPLICATIONS

During the year the responsibility for the administration of housing allocation and welfare has remained with the Public Health Department. It is felt that in many instances the advice of the Public Health Inspectors with regard to the housing need and circumstances of applicants has proved to be a useful contribution to the deliberation of the Housing Committee Members in allocating accommodation.

At the end of the year the housing applications position could be summarised as follows :-

Applications - general	210
Applications for aged persons accommodation	286
	<hr/>
Total	496
	<hr/>
Applications from persons outside the District	153
Applications from tenants requiring transfer of accommodation	166

It will be seen that the greatest pressure on the Council's future housing provision is from persons requiring elderly persons accommodation and no doubt this figure will influence the Council when a future house building programme is considered.

No other section of the community is more vulnerable to poor housing conditions or shows the greatest benefit from being rehoused in accommodation with modern amenities.

The need to provide housing for young married couples must not be lost sight of, for their position has become increasingly difficult with the inflationary spiral in house prices.

It is therefore considered that the provision of elderly persons units will have the two-fold benefit of housing the elderly and releasing houses for the young married couples.

PRIVATE HOUSING

The standards of older type housing in the area continues to improve year by year in many instances with the benefit of improvement grants of 50% up to a maximum of £1,000 per unit.

Many of these grants go to owner/occupiers and too few to tenanted houses. This is unfortunate when one is aware of the many tenanted houses in areas of the District where the standard of housing leaves a lot to be desired.

Undoubtedly one of the Council's most important tasks in the future is to ensure that every member of the community is able to live in a house which is in both good repair and has modern amenities.

Housing Acts 1957/69

Discretionary Grants

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Number of Dwellings in applications approved	38	68
<u>Standard Grants</u>	41	30

UNFIT HOUSES

During the year the Council took the following action under the Housing Act in respect of unfit properties:-

Demolition Orders	4
Closing Orders	3
Undertakings to make fit	3

A further seven individually unfit houses were demolished as a result of previous demolition orders made and informal action.

The four properties in the Hilltop, Broseley Clearance Area 1970 were demolished.

The Council continue to pursue their policy of purchasing houses in the Poole's Yard/Foundry Lane area of Broseley where eventual clearance will allow for re-development.

The Bridgnorth Rural District (Crews Park Clearance Order) 1972 was made in respect of three houses.

It is considered there are approximately 700 houses in the area which are unfit for human habitation in accordance with the standards laid down in Section 4 of the Housing Act 1957.

In the majority of cases such houses are unfit by either their disrepair, dampness or lack of amenities. They are usually lacking in thermal insulation being cold and draughty.

Such conditions make the properties totally unsuitable for the elderly who in many instances are their occupants.

It will be necessary therefore over the next few years to formulate a programme to deal with those houses either by their demolition or more likely with the increasing value of property, their improvement.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are four licensed slaughterhouses in the District, situated at Bridgnorth, Broseley, Claverley and Eardington where the standards of construction and hygiene are kept under constant review, although it is anticipated that early legislation will require increased standards.

All animals slaughtered in the District during 1972 were inspected, although this has meant the Inspectors working outside normal office hours, during evenings and weekends.

The total number of animals inspected was 41,090 compared with 51,355 during the previous year. This decrease was a result of fewer sheep and lambs being slaughtered at the Eardington Slaughterhouse.

This throughput necessitates a Public Health Inspector being on duty at the Slaughterhouse for considerable periods whilst killing is in progress.

The following table gives details of all carcasses inspected and condemned at the Slaughterhouses during 1972:-

	Cattle inc. Cows	Calves	Sheep &	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	3,830	25	26,071	11,164
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS				
Whole carcass condemned	2	1	53	15
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	82	4	584	776
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	2.19	16.00	2.44	7.08
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY				
Whole carcass condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	20
Percentage of number inspected affected	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.18
CYSTICERCOSIS				
Whole carcass condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	13	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected submitted to refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The ideal situation would be for all killing to take place at one Slaughterhouse rather than have a multiplicity of Slaughterhouses in the District where the full time need for a Meat Inspector cannot be justified because of the slow throughput and duplicated killing times.

Standards of hygiene and construction in Slaughterhouses will undoubtedly be expected to increase over the next few years when the present situation will have to be re-assessed.

The total quantity of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 4 tons, 12 cwts. 0 Qtrs. 15 lb.

Generally speaking an extremely high quality of animal is used in this area for meat production. It is therefore of concern that there is such a high incidence of parasitic infection in all animals, necessitating condemnation of various organs and sometimes carcasses. A closer liaison would appear to be needed here between the Public Health Inspector in his meat inspection activities and the Veterinarian where post-mortem statistics obtained in the Slaughterhouse could surely be of use either in the treatment of parasitic infections or research.

The facilities afforded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Veterinary Laboratory, Woodthorne, Wolverhampton were utilised during the year and their opinions on the various specimens submitted were appreciated.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All meat found to be unfit for human consumption at the Slaughterhouses is removed by approved knackers for sterilisation in accordance with the requirements of the Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations 1969.

FOOD INSPECTION AND HYGIENE

A Council is required by the Food and Drugs Act and its relevant Regulations to ensure that all food is fit for human consumption. In carrying out this duty, which receives little publicity, Public Health Inspectors make regular inspections of all food premises whether they be for the preparation, storage or sale of food. In addition to the condition of the premises, the cleanliness of the food handlers is closely supervised.

During the course of this work the Public Health Inspector meets with conditions in some premises which are clearly contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and which he endeavours to improve by both encouragement and education. With the increase in the catering trade the time would now appear to be appropriate for sterner action to be considered. Where people's health is at risk, ignorance of the law or the disregard of good food hygiene practices can no longer be condoned.

Attention has continued to be given to the date coding of foodstuffs and a general improvement can be reported in the awareness of the management of food premises of the need to remove out-of-date foods from the shelves of shops. This is no doubt due to the emphasis given to this work and the considerable publicity the subject has received. It is anticipated that legislation requiring date coding will soon be forthcoming.

The following foods inspected in shops, schools or restaurant kitchens were found to be unfit for human consumption and were satisfactorily disposed of by the Department:-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qtrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
Meat at retail shops		1		24
Canned meat, fruit and vegetables		1	1	19
Wet fish			2	10
Other Foods		8	3	20
Fruit & Vegetables		6	2	24
Total		18	3	13

In addition to the above, the following frozen foods were surrendered as a result of breakdowns and electricity cuts affecting refrigerators and deep freeze cabinets:-

	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Fish</u>	<u>Vegetables</u>	<u>Fruit</u>	<u>Pastry</u>	<u>Cake</u>	<u>Ice-cream</u>	<u>Cheese</u>
Packets	872	2656	1533	-	99	110	1229	23

It will be seen from the above figures that a considerable amount of time has been taken up with the control of frozen food cabinets.

Whenever visits are made to retail food premises such cabinets are inspected.

It cannot be stressed too often to shopkeepers that the correct rotation of stock and maintenance of these cabinets is important.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Probably one of the more important aspects of a Public Health Inspector's work is that of emphasising to members of the public and especially to persons engaged in the food industry, the need for good hygienic practices.

Such work is automatic when visiting food premises, but advantage has also been taken of speaking to school children and various organisations.

POULTRY DRESSING PREMISES

There are now nine poultry dressing premises in the District but killing on a regular basis is only carried out at four of these.

These latter premises receive visits whenever killing takes place and some 22,492 birds were inspected of which 182 (0.80%) were rejected as being unfit for human consumption.

Other premises where killing is less frequent are visited to ensure that preparation of birds is carried out in a hygienic manner. A total of 110 visits have been made throughout the year to poultry dressing premises. Particular attention is given to farm premises at Christmas time when turkeys are killed and dressed. 2,474 were inspected at eight premises.

The majority of birds prepared in the District are what are known as "New York Dressed" i.e. birds which are not eviscerated at the poultry dressing premises. The inspection of this type of bird presents obvious post-mortem difficulties and is open to criticism as it is considered that the evisceration of poultry should not be permitted in catering kitchens but should take place where the bird is killed.

TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA

(a) Type of Food Premises in the Area

1. Butchers Shops	25
2. Fried Fish Shops	8
3. Bakehouses	6
4. Licensed Premises	104
5. Licensed Clubs	15
6. Catering Premises	39
7. General Provision Stores	137
8. Schools (without kitchens)	12
9. Schools (with kitchens)	21
10. Poultry Dressing Establishments	9
11. Market Stalls	9

(b) Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955

1. Manufacturers of preserved foods	26
2. Ice-cream (retail)	90
3. Ice-cream (manufacture)	2

The following table shows the results obtained from 52 samples of ice-cream which were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination:-

<u>GRADES</u>				
1	2	3	4	Total
68	4	3	1	76

As a guide to interpreting the above results, it is suggested that over a six-monthly period 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1; 80% into Grades 1 and 2; not more than 20% into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

In the case of the sample which was found to be in Grade 4, a follow-up visit was made and advice given to the retailer on correct storage and handling procedures.

Mobile vehicles based at premises outside the area are inspected whenever possible but it has proved difficult to carry out sampling procedures in respect of these vehicles. However, a routine has been agreed with the Public Health Laboratory which will enable samples to be taken in the future.

FOOD POISONING

During the year the Council's Public Health Inspectors investigated 29 cases of Food Poisoning.

One of these outbreaks involved some 23 confirmed cases of Salmonella Infantis. The outbreak occurred after 181 persons had attended a dinner, the cause being attributed to unsatisfactory preparation of frozen turkeys which formed part of the meal.

As a result of the investigations made, it was established that seven of the persons involved were food handlers, it being considered advisable to exclude 5 persons from work.

The investigations, with the co-operation of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Shrewsbury, showed the importance of early notification of such cases and the need for intensive enquiries amongst all persons at risk.

A further six cases involving other Salmonellae, Clostridium Welchi and Staphylococcus aureus were also investigated.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The Food and Drugs Authority for this area is the Salop County Council and the following is a report received of the work carried out in this area by the Officers of that Authority during 1972:-

MILK SAMPLING

Pasteurised	12
Channel Islands Pasteurised	7
Untreated Farm Bottled	21
Untreated Channel Islands Farm	
Bottled	8
Sterilised	7
Bulk Milk ex Farm	82
	<hr/>
	137
	<hr/>

OTHER FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES

Ox Tongue	1	Pork Sausage with preservative	1
Paella	1	Stilton Cheese	1
Orange Drink	1	Soft Cheese with Chives	1
Salad Cream	1	Vitamin C. Tablets	1
Throat Lozenges	1	Mint Sauce	1
Massage Cream	1	Melba Toast	1
Skimmed Milk Powder	2	Sandwich Cake Mix	1
White Bread	1	Pheasant Soup with Red Wine	1
Bronchial Balsam	1	Ground Ginger	1
Lemon Cheese	2	Cider	1
Full Fat Soft Cheese	1	Stuffing Mix	1
Shredded Beef Suet	1	Dried Mixed Sweet Herbs	1
Ground Rice	1	Baby Food	1
Gees Linctus	1	Bubble Gum	1
Sliced Lemon in Preserve	1	Fruit Sauce	1
Cream Doughnuts	1	Shandy	1
Mayonnaise	1	Double Cream	2
Wheatgerm	1	Lard	1
Ginger Wine	1	Meat Balls in Gravy	1
Chicken Liver Pate	1	Picallili	1
Beef Steak Pie	1	Mincemeat	1
Food Supplement	1	Saccharin Tablets	1
Cough Mixture	1		
			<hr/>
			48
			<hr/>

A sample of Baby Food (Bacon and Liver Dinner) was found to contain pieces of glass. Legal proceedings were instituted against the manufacturers who pleaded guilty and were fined £30 and ordered to pay costs of £16.55.

One sample of Melba Toast was found to be incorrectly labelled.

A bottle of Pasteurised Milk was found to contain pieces of glass. Legal proceedings were instituted against the processors, who pleaded guilty and were fined £25 and ordered to pay costs of £15.

A bottle of milk issued to a school kitchen was found to contain a piece of glass. A warning letter was sent to the Creamery.

A bottle of School Milk was found to contain foreign matter which was of a carbon nature. There was an element of doubt in this matter and no further action was taken.

A bottle of Milk issued to a school canteen was found to contain a piece of glass. Legal proceedings were instituted against the Creamery.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION)(SPECIFIED AREA) ORDER 1960

	Samples Obtained	Phosphatase Test	Methylene Blue Test			Turbidity Test
			Passed	Failed	Void	
Pasteurised	124	124	122	1	1	
Channel Islands Pasteurised	31	31	31	-	-	
Untreated Bottled	2		2	-	-	
Untreated Farm Bottled	26		22	3	1	
Untreated Channel Islands Farm Bottled	12		12			
Sterilised	5					5
	200					

Warning letters were sent to the dealers concerned in respect of the Methylene Blue failures above and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food informed in respect of the Untreated Farm Bottled failures.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of the notifiable Infectious Diseases was pleasingly low during the year. The following cases were notified by medical practitioners:-

Measles	19
Food Poisoning	6
Respiratory Tuberculosis	6
Scarlet Fever	4
Infective Jaundice	2
Meningococcal Meningitis	<u>1</u>
	38
	<hr/>

The Senior Public Health Inspector has made reference in his report to the 23 people found to be infected with *Salmonella Infantis*, one of the Food Poisoning germs, following a function in the town in the early part of the year. Many had not consulted their doctor as their illness had been very short-lived, so official notifications were received for only a few.

Investigations were hampered by the absence of a list of guests attending this meal but by dint of much perseverance the Inspectors succeeded in tracing 116 of the total 181. This was a worthwhile exercise as 7 of those found to be excreting germs were food-handlers. Five of these were excluded from work until all infection had cleared, and in most cases this took many weeks.

One point which emerges from this episode is the desirability of having a list of guests attending any function at which food or drink is served. This would be of great assistance should subsequent Public Health enquiries prove necessary.

PREScribed PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(a) Factories in which Secs. 1-4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	116	19	Nil	Nil
(c) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl. outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	116	19	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	3	3	Nil	2	Nil
(c) Not separate for Sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	4	4	Nil	2	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK (Sections 110 & 111)

There were two outworkers notified in the District during the year.

